

V2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 6/21/12

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieaon (Chair), Heather Remoff, Scott Lever, David Garbarino, Joel Rothstein, Pete Howard (Secretary),

RECOGNITION: Pete presented Heather with the certificate that she was awarded at the annual Vision 2020 thank you dinner that was held Tues 6/19. She was not able to attend the dinner. The award was in recognition of her series of articles on land taxation that appeared in the Advocate.

WATER BILLING: Scott presented 2 charts (Ref 1) summarizing the one time benefits available for various changes in the billing cycle together with the additional meter reading & billing that would be required. Several suggestions were made: including to add a 5 mo cycle & to add the estimated \$100k cost of billing. Pete to verify this figure. Scott's 2nd chart raises a variety of questions. He would like to invite a DPW representative to the next meeting to discuss these issues. He will prepare a list of questions & Gordon will forward them to DPW with an invitation.

WATER METERING: We believe that 30% of the water that comes into Arlington is not metered. Reasons include public buildings are not metered, supply pipes leak, and as meters age they under measure the water flowing through them. Gordon found a article that gives an average degradation factor with time (Ref 2). We discussed whether the saving from changing the billing cycle might be used to better understand the metering problem and perhaps pay for replacing old meters. This is of course an equity issue but might also be part of a water conservation program which would ultimately reduce water rates.

MASS AVE ASSESSMENT DATA: Pete provided 3 charts (Ref 3) showing the increase in total assessed value and the distribution of assessments across \$100k groupings. In Arlington the total assessment grew \$80m over the 9 years of data.. There seem to be 2 groupings, those under \$1m and those over \$1m. Pete suggested that it will be interesting to see if the Broadway Arlington and Mass Ave Cambridge assessments follow a similar pattern.

MY TAX DOLLARS: No progress.

NEW BUSINESS (From previous mtg. Not discussed)

Solar-voltaic power generation Scott

Wind power generation: David

Unpaid kindergarten assessment: David

NEXT MEETINGS .. Thurs Sep 20. Room TBD.

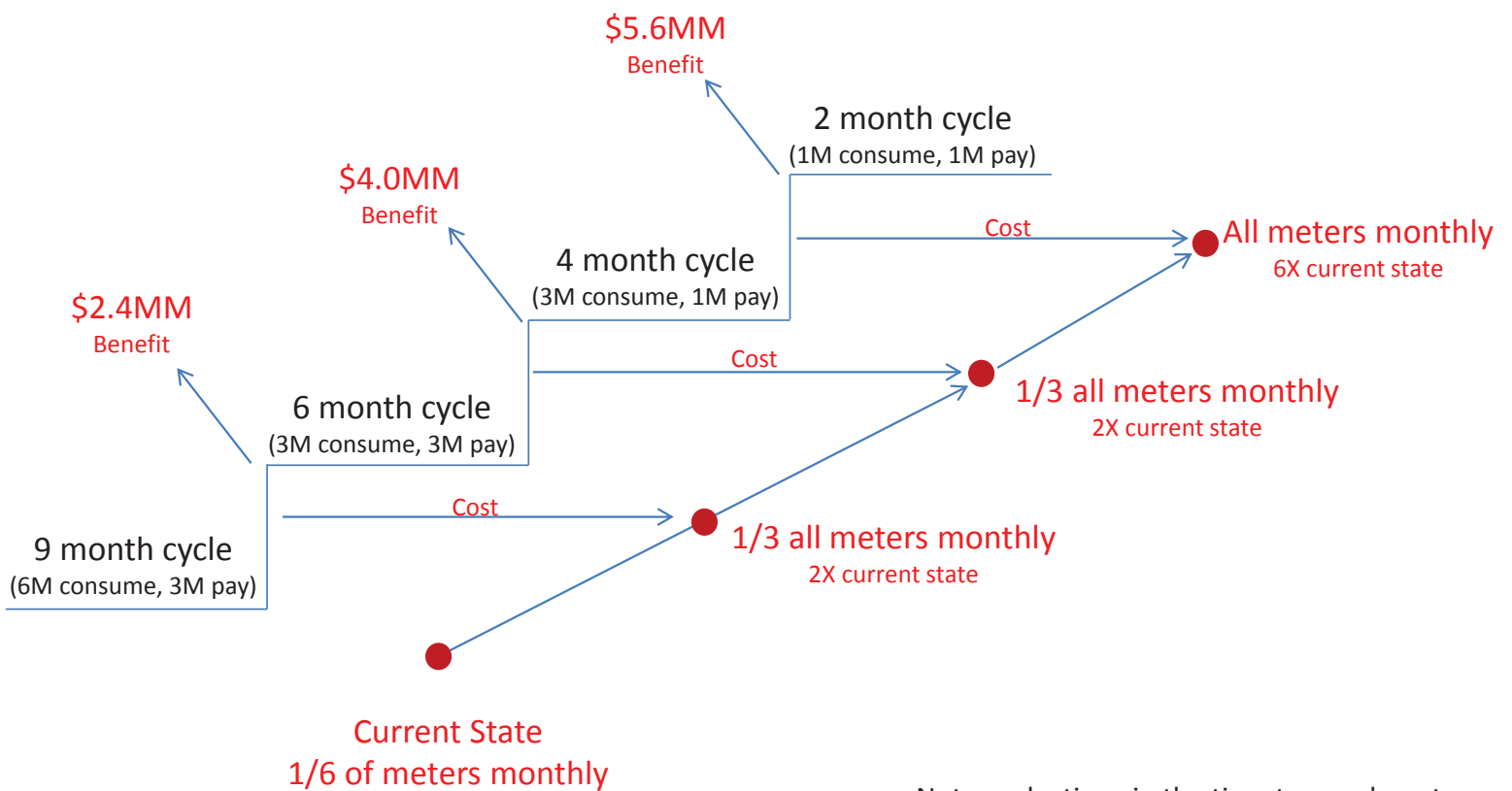
Ref 1 Water Billing Charts

Ref 2 Water Meter Aging <http://www.wwdmag.com/meters/determining-economical-optimum-life-residential-water-meters>

Ref 3 Mass Ave Assessment Analysis

Ref 1

Each monthly cycle reduction results in approximately 800K in one-time cashflow benefit, not considering the additional cost of billing

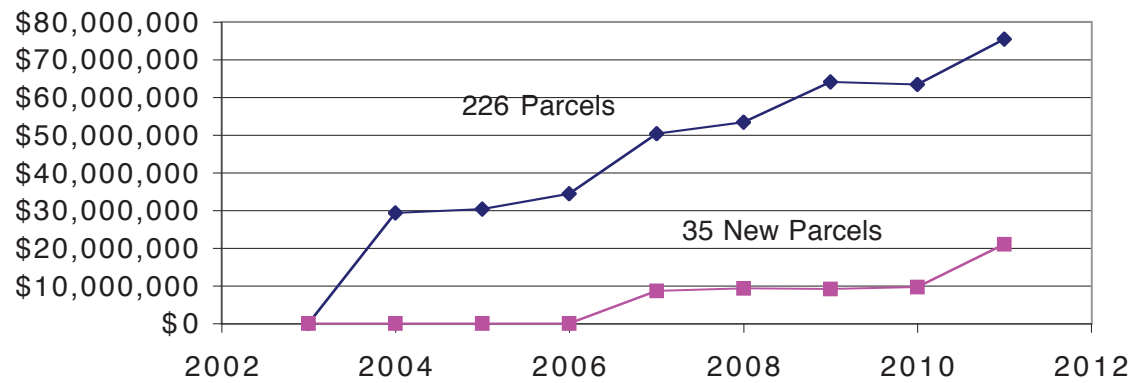


Note: reductions in the time to pay do not drive additional billing costs

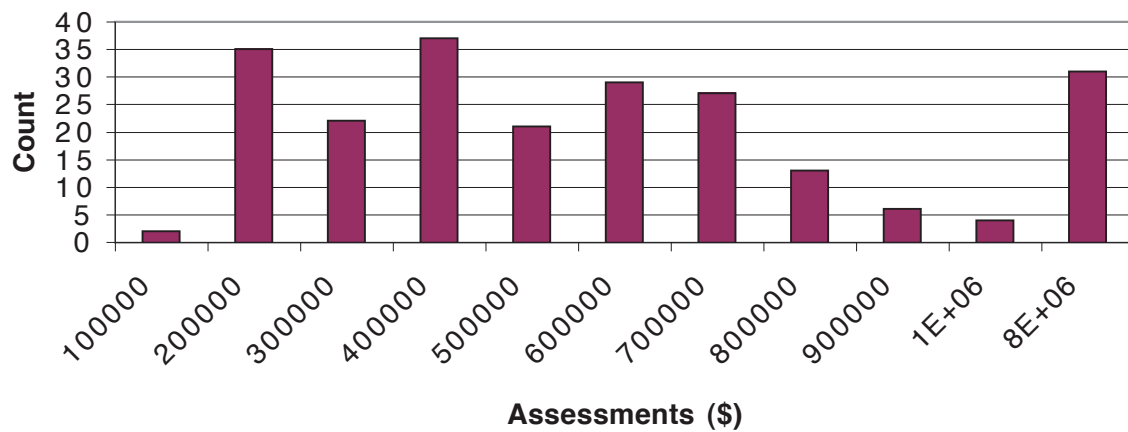
Change related issues to surface

- Will the meter system and process support more frequent readings?
- Will the options for addressing the additional cost of billing be acceptable to the treasurer?
 - i.e., outsourcing and greater reliance on electronic billing and payments
 - Electronic billing has additional benefits associated with speed and environment
- Will citizens accept the changes to the timings and billing cycle?
 - Can the town position the water bill like cable, phone, and other regular expenses which are consumed and paid for monthly?
 - Can the town enable on-line meter tools to engage citizens in consumption and conservation?
- How will the additional funds be used?
 - Offset future rate increases
 - accelerate repairs to lower town infrastructure expenditures to MWRA
 - Jump start conversation programs to lower MWRA proportional overhead allocations to Arlington

Mass Ave Arlington Assessment Increase



Mass Ave Arlington Assessments 2011



Mass Ave Arlington Assessments Histograms

Counts

Assessments

Legend:

- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011

